



COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

Tuberculosis Officer,

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

AND

Public Analyst,

For the Year 1921.

SMETHWICK TELEPHONE COMPANY LIMITED,
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County Borough of Smethwick.

The Health Committee.

From November, 1920, to November, 1921.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR A. BRADSHAW, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman Charles Woodcock, J.P.).

ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P. COUNCILLOR G. F. BETTS.

COUNCILLOR E. ADAMS, J.P. „ W. H. HARRIS, J.P.

„ F. ASPY. „ A. MORRIS.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Members of the Health Committee together with the following Co-opted Members:—

MRS CHAPMAN.

MRS. C. W. JONES.

MRS. GRIFFITHS.

MRS. POLLARD.

Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee.

Chairman : ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR. COUNCILLOR BETTS.

ALDERMAN WILLIETS, J.P. „ BRADSHAW.

„ W. H. GOODYEAR, J.P. „ H. COLLIS.

Oldbury Representatives :

COUNCILLOR W. T. DAVIES. COUNCILLOR T. W. QUAYLE.

„ W. PARKES. „ C. THOMLINSON.

Smethwick Representatives on the Small Pox Hospital Board.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR.

ALDERMAN BOWDEN, J.P.

COUNCILLOR BETTS.

Health Department Staff.

Consulting Medical Officer of Health :

W. F. MARSH JACKSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and L.M.

Medical Officer of Health, Tuberculosis Officer, School Medical Officer, and Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital :

J. BELL FERGUSON, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin), D.P.H. (Manchester).

Assistant Medical Officers :

JAMES A. DELMEGE, O.B.E. (Mil. Div.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

ANNIE M. MADIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector : J. FYLES, C.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors :

JOHN DEMPSEY, C.R.S.I. and Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

JOHN H. WRIGHT, C.R.S.I. and Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

Clerical Staff :

Chief Clerk : GEO. H. ROE, C.R.S.I.

Second Clerk : JAMES F. ROGERS.

Clerk for M. and C.W. Work : MISS WINIFRED M. COOMBES.

Junior Clerk : J. H. MASSY.

Nursing Staff :*

MISS L. E. ROBERTS.

MISS N. S. GRAY, C.M.B.

MISS A. WRIGHT, C.M.B.

MISS F. RICHARDS, C.M.B.

MISS F. M. SULLIVAN, C.M.B.

MISS R. CLARKE, C.M.B.

Health Visitor and Clerk to Tuberculosis Dispensary :

MISS G. M. COBBAN, C.R.S.I.

Matron of Isolation Hospital : MISS F. E. WHITEHOUSE.

Public Analyst : JOSEPH LONES, F.I.C., F.C.S.

* The work of these Nurses is divided between the following Committees:—Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, Education, and Mental Deficiency.

County Borough of Smethwick.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL HOUSE, SMETHWICK.

July, 1922.

To the MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health and Tuberculosis Officer for the year 1921.

The Ministry of Health now requires reports of a full and detailed character ("Survey Reports") at intervals of five years, while for the intervening years reports of a simpler character are to be prepared. The reports for 1919 and 1920 were considered by the Ministry as constituting the first of the series of Survey Reports, and I therefore refer in this report only to the more important features of the year, but to preserve continuity in the statistics, the tables given are comparable with those in previous reports.

The year under review was remarkable for the hot and prolonged summer which we experienced. Contrary to expectation, the rise in the Infant Mortality was slight (from 82 to 88 per 1,000 births). Compared with 1911, when we had the last excessively hot summer, and the Infant Mortality rose from 108 to 140, we have every reason to be grateful.

The Birth-rate (25·46) shews a slight decline compared with last year; the Marriage-rate (16·4) shews a substantial decrease over last year; the Death-rate (11·11) is again the lowest on record with the exception of 1916, when it was 11·08.

During the year there were two outbreaks of food poisoning which are described in the body of the report.

One has heard from time to time criticisms made against the amount of expenditure alleged to be incurred by the Department. The Borough Accountant has kindly worked out the facts, and states that the charge on the rates for all public health expenditure, including Medical Inspection and Treatment of School Children,

Maternity and Child Welfare work, Tuberculosis work, Venereal Disease work, Mental Deficiency work, Isolation Hospital, Disinfection, Administration of Food and Drugs Acts, General Sanitation, etc., was £13,079 for the financial year ended 31st December, 1921. The nett amount spent from the rates on public health work in Smethwick represents 11½d. in the £ out of a total rate of 17s. 10d. in the £.

It will be seen from the above figures that a very small sum indeed is being expended at present in safeguarding the health of the individual and the community. It has often been pointed out that preventive medicine does not make such a dramatic appeal to the public as curative medicine, and in this regard it must be borne in mind that the more successful preventive medicine is, the less need there appears to be for its activities. Outbreaks of disease averted or nipped in the bud are never credited, but the public are immediately aware of an epidemic in their midst.

I should like to express my thanks to the members of the Health Committee, who understand the work, for their help and co-operation, and to the other officials and members of the staff who have so freely given of their best during the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. BELL FERGUSON,

Medical Officer of Health

Annual Report for 1921.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area: 1929 acres.

Population: (Census, 1921), 75,757. (Registrar-General's Estimate Mid-year, 1921), 77,400. (Used throughout this Report).

Number of inhabited houses (1921), 15,895.

Number of families or separate occupiers: Not yet available.

Rateable value: £331,614 5s. 0d.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £1,381 14s. 6d.

POPULATION.

The Census of England and Wales for 1921 gives the population of the Borough as 75,757. This is an increase over the 1911 return of 5,063, or 7.2 per cent. The Borough thus compares favourably with the neighbouring towns, the highest increase amongst those of over 50,000 population in the County being West Bromwich, namely, 7.9 per cent. The present population of Smethwick consists of 36,529 males and 39,226 females, the former showing an increase of 2,102 over the 1911 return, and the latter an increase of 2,960. The preponderance of females over males is 2,699, or one over every 13 males. This represents an intercensal increase of 857 in the preponderance of females over males.

Smethwick is the most densely populated town in the County, its nearest competitor amongst the County Boroughs being Wolverhampton. The proportion of population to area in Smethwick is one person to every 123 square yards, compared with 166 square yards in Wolverhampton, 384 in West Bromwich and 229 in Birmingham.

The following table shews the increase of population in Smethwick since 1801:—

Census Year.	Population.	Increase.	Percentage.
1801	1,097	—	—
1821	1,950	853	77.7
1841	5,020	3,070	157.4
1861	13,351	8,331	165.9
1871	17,158	3,807	28.5
1881	25,076	7,918	46.1
1891	36,170	11,094	44.2
1901	54,539	18,369	50.7
1911	70,694	16,155	29.6
1921	75,757	5,063	7.2

The Registrar-General, in a memorandum dated February, 1922 states that owing to the postponement of the Census until June, 1921, and owing also to the abnormally fine weather, some holiday movement was already in progress when the enumeration was carried out. It was found necessary, therefore, to make an adjustment of the population figures in certain areas, the population of Smethwick at mid-year 1921 being estimated by the Registrar-General to be 77,400. This figure has been used for statistical purposes throughout this report.

The populations of the several municipal wards of the Borough will be found in the table on page 310.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	Males.	Females
BIRTHS: Legitimate	1,911	975	936
Illegitimate	60	37	23
Total	1,971	1,012	959

Birth-rate. 25.46 per 1,000 of the population.

MARRIAGES: 635. Marriage-rate: 16.4 per 1,000.

DEATHS: Total, 860; Males 445, Females 415.

Death-rate: 11.11 per 1,000 of the population.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth: From sepsis, 6; from other causes, 3.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under one year of age per 1,000 births:—Legitimate, 86.3; Illegitimate, 150.0; Total, 88.28.

Deaths from:—

	Number.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
Measles (all ages)	13	0.16
Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	5	0.06
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	24	0.31
Scarlet Fever (all ages)	3	0.04
Diphtheria (all ages)	9	0.11
Influenza (all ages)	12	0.15
Cancer (all ages)	66	0.85
Respiratory Diseases (all ages)	176	2.27
Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages)	53	0.68
Other Tuberculous Diseases (all ages)	17	0.22

COMPARISON OF RATES IN THE VARIOUS WARDS:—

Ward	Estimated Population	Total Acreage	Density	General Death-rate	Respiratory Death-rate	Infant Mortality rate
Spon Lane	12,786	515	24.8	10.3	2.1	80.7
Sandwell ...	11,790	411	28.7	14.0	2.9	135.6
Uplands ...	8,616	255	33.8	10.5	2.2	73.0
Bearwood ...	21,405	348	61.5	8.7	1.4	61.7
Victoria ...	11,709	176	66.5	12.3	2.5	69.5
Soho	11,094	224	49.5	12.6	3.0	100.3
Total ...	77,400	1,929	40.1	11.11	2.27	88.28

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY
DURING THE YEAR 1921.

	BIRTH- RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPUL- ATION	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year	Deaths in Public Institutions	Certified Cau- ses of Death	Un- certified Causes of Death
England and Wales ...	22.4	12.1	0.02	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.12	0.12	0.23	0.44	15.5	83	25.5	92.5	1.1
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Popula- tions exceeding 50,000) ...	23.3	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.04	0.13	0.15	0.23	0.40	19.3	87	33.2	92.5	0.7
148 Smaller Towns (Census Populations 20,000—50,000)	22.7	11.3	0.01	0.00	0.05	0.03	0.11	0.11	0.26	0.35	15.6	84	17.7	93.5	1.4
London	22.3	12.4	0.01	—	0.05	0.06	0.12	0.25	0.23	0.42	21.3	80	49.2	91.6	0.2
Smethwick	25.4	11.1	—	—	0.16	0.02	0.06	0.11	0.15	0.31	12.17	88	25.0	94.5	0.5

VITAL STATISTICS.

The total deaths registered in the district was 642, 10 of these were non-residents and were transferred to other districts, while 228 Smethwick residents died in other districts and have to be added to our number. The nett deaths thus number 860, giving a death-rate of 11.11 per 1,000 of the population. This rate is the lowest yet recorded, with the exception of the year 1916, when the rate was 11.08. From the foregoing table it will be seen that Smethwick's death-rate is below the average for England and Wales, for the Metropolis, and for the groups of large towns.

There has been a decline in the Birth-rate (25.46) compared with last year (27.08), but reference to the above table will again shew that we compare favourably with other towns.

The number of marriages shews a substantial decrease as compared with 1920.

The following table gives a review of Vital statistics for the past 25 years.

A table giving a detailed analysis of the causes of, and ages at, death will be found at the end of this Report, while a similar table relating to the deaths of infants under one year appears on page 37.

REVIEW OF VITAL STATISTICS IN SMETHWICK DURING THE PAST 25 YEARS.

Year		Estimated population	Marriage rate per 1,000	Birth rate per 1,000	Death rate per 1,000	Infant mor- tality rate per 1,000 births	Zymotic death rate per 1,000	Death rates per 1,000		
								Respiratory diseases	Pulmonary tuber- culosis	Cancer
1897	...	45,000	14.6	36.7	16.8	168.9	2.3	3.64	0.83	0.40
1898	...	50,000	13.8	34.4	14.8	158	1.88	3.24	0.66	0.52
1899	...	51,500	14.3	36.03	15.1	179	1.9	2.5	0.81	0.46
1900	...	55,700	14.9	33.3	15.6	160	1.4	3.3	0.74	0.55
1901	...	54,560	15.4	34.7	14.9	170	1.76	2.5	0.87	0.62
1902	...	55,700	12.1	35.4	13.8	127	1.4	2.9	0.75	0.55
1903	...	58,000	14.8	34.1	14.1	141.7	1.2	3.1	0.65	0.77
1904	...	61,000	11.08	32.06	13.2	145.6	1.24	2.67	0.93	0.80
1905	...	63,000	14.9	30.3	15.0	139	1.7	2.7	0.73	0.60
1906	...	65,000	15.6	31.2	14.6	130	2.21	2.7	1.03	0.67
1907	...	67,000	14.4	29.4	14.34	116	1.43	3.1	0.78	0.85
1908	...	69,500	14.1	30.0	14.5	135	1.84	2.7	0.86	0.70
1909	...	70,300	13.8	28.1	13.4	116	2.23	2.8	0.82	0.78
1910	...	72,000	15.2	27.35	12.42	108	1.3	1.5	0.84	0.54
1911	...	70,681	15.9	27.8	14.6	140	2.3	2.6	0.94	0.79
1912	...	73,372	16.3	25.8	12.32	111	0.9	2.8	0.9	0.7
1913	...	72,936	18.0	28.1	14.98	127	2.1	3.1	0.8	0.76
1914	...	72,975	16.8	27.5	14.13	106	1.67	3.4	1.26	0.89
1915	...	72,439	21.6	25.88	13.8	109.3	2.13	3.02	1.10	0.98
1916	...	78,335	17.4	22.04	11.08	93.8	0.77	3.33	1.20	0.84
1917	...	78,335	18.11	20.32	11.5	99.8	0.71	3.9	1.30	0.86
1918	...	76,056	16.49	20.28	15.63	102.4	0.6	3.56	1.43	0.9
1919	...	73,000	17.67	22.19	13.00	84.6	0.45	3.2	1.19	1.03
1920	...	75,027	22.71	27.08	11.16	82.18	0.64	2.4	0.81	0.92
1921	...	77,400	16.4	25.46	11.11	88.28	0.69	2.27	0.68	0.85

PREVALENCE, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria continued to be persistent and troublesome during the year.

A table shewing the number of notifications received during the year, the number of cases removed to hospital, and the number of deaths due to the various notifiable disease will be found on page 14.

An outline of the action taken in cases of infectious disease was given on page 22 of my Report for 1920.

SCARLET FEVER.

Year	Cases notified	Attack rate per 1,000 of population	Number of deaths	Case mortality per cent.
1911	242	3.4	3	1.2
1912	252	3.5	4	1.6
1913	581	7.9	13	2.2
1914	428	5.8	16	3.7
1915	253	3.5	4	1.5
1916	169	2.2	4	2.3
1917	105	1.3	1	0.9
1918	52	0.7	1	1.9
1919	145	2.0	5	3.4
1920	514	6.8	2	0.4
1921	626	5.5	3	0.7

The cases of Scarlet Fever were for the most part mild, which fact contributed no doubt to the continued prevalence of the disease, as many of the mild cases were missed until the period of desquamation.

There were 295 cases of Scarlet Fever in children of school age notified during the year, with three deaths. The schools chiefly affected were Smethwick Hall, Central, Brasshouse Lane, Corbett Street, and Bearwood Road.

DIPHTHERIA.

Year	Cases notified	Attack rate per 1,000 of population	Number of deaths	Case mortality per cent.
1911	96	1.3	5	5.2
1912	50	0.6	9	18.0
1913	65	0.8	9	13.8
1914	84	1.15	14	16.6
1915	58	0.8	9	15.5
1916	57	0.7	5	8.7
1917	56	0.7	6	10.7
1918	70	1.0	8	11.4
1919	94	1.29	6	6.4
1920	177	2.3	16	9.0
1921	132	1.7	9	6.8

ENTERIC FEVER.

Four cases were reported during the month of August, one of which appeared doubtful. The three definite cases were removed to the General Hospital, Birmingham. Serum tests were made, with positive results in each case. Investigations revealed a common (indirect) milk supply and all three cases had eaten ice-cream from a common source. The husband of the woman who sold the ice-cream was found to have suffered from enteric fever 22½ years previously. Bacteriological examination of this man's discharges shewed that he was a "carrier," and probably responsible for this localised outbreak, as on one or two occasions, coinciding with the beginning of the incubation period of the disease in these three cases, he had assisted in the preparation of the ice-cream. Steps were taken to caution him against handling ice-cream or other food-stuffs in the shop.

The fourth notified case occurred in February and was diagnosed as para-typhoid fever. Later observation proved that the patient was not suffering from this disease, the case pursuing a peculiar clinical course and some suspicion arose of it being a case of encephalitis lethargica. It was not, however, notified as such.

None of the cases proved fatal.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

Five cases of this obscure disease were notified during the year, 3 in January, 1 in February and 1 in July. The persons affected were a man aged 53, two married women aged 36, a boy of 9, and a girl of 2 years, the last-named (the July case) died. Exhaustive enquiries were made in each case and the results forwarded to the Ministry of Health. No connection was traced between any of the cases.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

One case was notified during the year, in the person of a girl aged 16. The patient was removed to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, where she died.

TUBERCULOSIS.

It will be here convenient to introduce the Annual Report of the Tuberculosis Officer.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1921.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.														Cases admitted to Hospital.	TOTAL DEATHS.													
	AGE GROUPS.															AGE GROUPS.													
	All ages	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and upwards	All ages		0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and upwards		
Diphtheria	132	3	3	8	5	8	61	26	7	8	1	2	...	56	9	1	2	2	2	2		
Scarlet Fever	426	6	12	18	26	33	185	109	22	12	2	1	...	207	3	3	3		
Enteric Fever	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	4	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	12
Acute Primary Pneumonia	70	5	10	7	3	3	9	3	2	12	5	8	3	...	49	8	2	2	...	2	1	3	2	7	10	...			
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Erysipelas	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	10	5	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	34	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	5	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis:—																													
(a) Pulmonary...																													
	Males	46	1	...	1	...	2	1	4	20	7	10	...	90	29	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	5	7	10	1
	Females	42	...	...	1	...	2	1	3	25	8	2	...	45	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	9	3	2	...
	Total...	88	1	...	2	...	4	2	7	45	15	12	...	135	48	...	...	...	...	1	...	10	14	10	12	1
(b) Non-pulmonary																													
	Males	7	...	...	1	...	2	1	1	...	1	1	...	2	8	...	...	2	...	2	1	1	...	...	2	...
	Females	7	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	...	1	...	2	14	1	1	1	2	1	...	2	1	...	4	...
	Total...	14	2	1	2	2	3	1	1	2	...	4	22	1	1	1	4	1	2	2	3	1	...	6	...		
GRAND TOTALS	...	815	49	25	34	38	45	262	143	45	93	40	35	6	413	141	10	3	6	3	10	3	17	22	19	29	13		

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER FOR 1921.

SANATORIUM ACCOMMODATION.

The accommodation available for the reception of tuberculous patients includes 12 beds for females and 6 beds for males in "A" Block at Holly Lane Isolation Hospital, together with 12 wooden shelters for males, making a total of 30 beds.

At Romsley Hill Sanatorium the Smethwick Corporation have continued to reserve 20 beds.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

A new block ("D") consisting of 12 beds for females and 12 beds for males has been in use since July, 1921, and should prove of great value in dealing with the hospital type of case. Chronic cases may be admitted from time to time during exacerbations of the disease; other cases will be admitted for short periods of educational treatment and advanced cases where the home conditions are such that isolation is impossible will be encouraged to come into this ward to be nursed to the end.

SURGICAL TUBERCULOSIS.

A total of six beds has been sanctioned by the Corporation for prolonged treatment of cases of surgical tuberculosis, either at the Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripples' Hospital, Alton, Hants., or at "The Woodlands," Northfield. Three cases were sent during the year. An endeavour is made to get these cases as early as possible and to continue the treatment for a sufficiently long period of time to ensure complete arrest of the disease. It is to be regretted that an Open Air School is not available for the after-care of such cases.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

I must repeat my remarks of the last two years as to the inadequacy of the premises in Crocketts Lane. The quality of the work suffers and much time is lost through the fact that only one small cubicle is available for undressing patients, and from the fact that the Dispensary abuts on a road along which noisy traffic abounds. Further, the walls of the Dispensary are rendered in cement mortar which disintegrates and on windy days the place is filled with a dry, irritating dust, which I consider is dangerous to the patients and staff alike.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

I would again reiterate my remarks and call attention to the urgent need for facilities for prompt and efficient dental treatment. Patients are constantly presenting themselves at the sanatorium with mouths in an advanced state of sepsis. It is impossible to get the best results with such patients while every mouthful of food which is swallowed is mixed with septic matter from foul teeth. Great difficulty is met with in having the teeth of such cases attended to. A whole-time dentist is required, who, in addition to work with tuberculous patients, should be available for the treatment of dental defects in school children and in connection with maternity and child welfare work.

AFTER-CARE WORK.

After-care is carried out by the staff at the Dispensary and secures correlation of the various charitable institutions in the town. Beds have been lent to patients to secure better isolation at home, and clothing, boots, books, etc., have been given to patients. The Dispensary Nurse has undertaken blanket bathing in connection with advanced cases. A summary of the work is given below:—

Patients receiving loan of beds and bedding	9
Patients receiving loan of shelters (including beds)	14
Advanced cases on domiciliary treatment receiving loan of bed-pans and air cushions	13
Ditto. receiving loan of water bed	1
Patients recommended and received dental treatment through Insurance and Pensions Committees ...	6
Cases receiving extra nourishment	10
Cases receiving extra milk only	22
Jerseys loaned to insured persons receiving Sanatorium Treatment	14

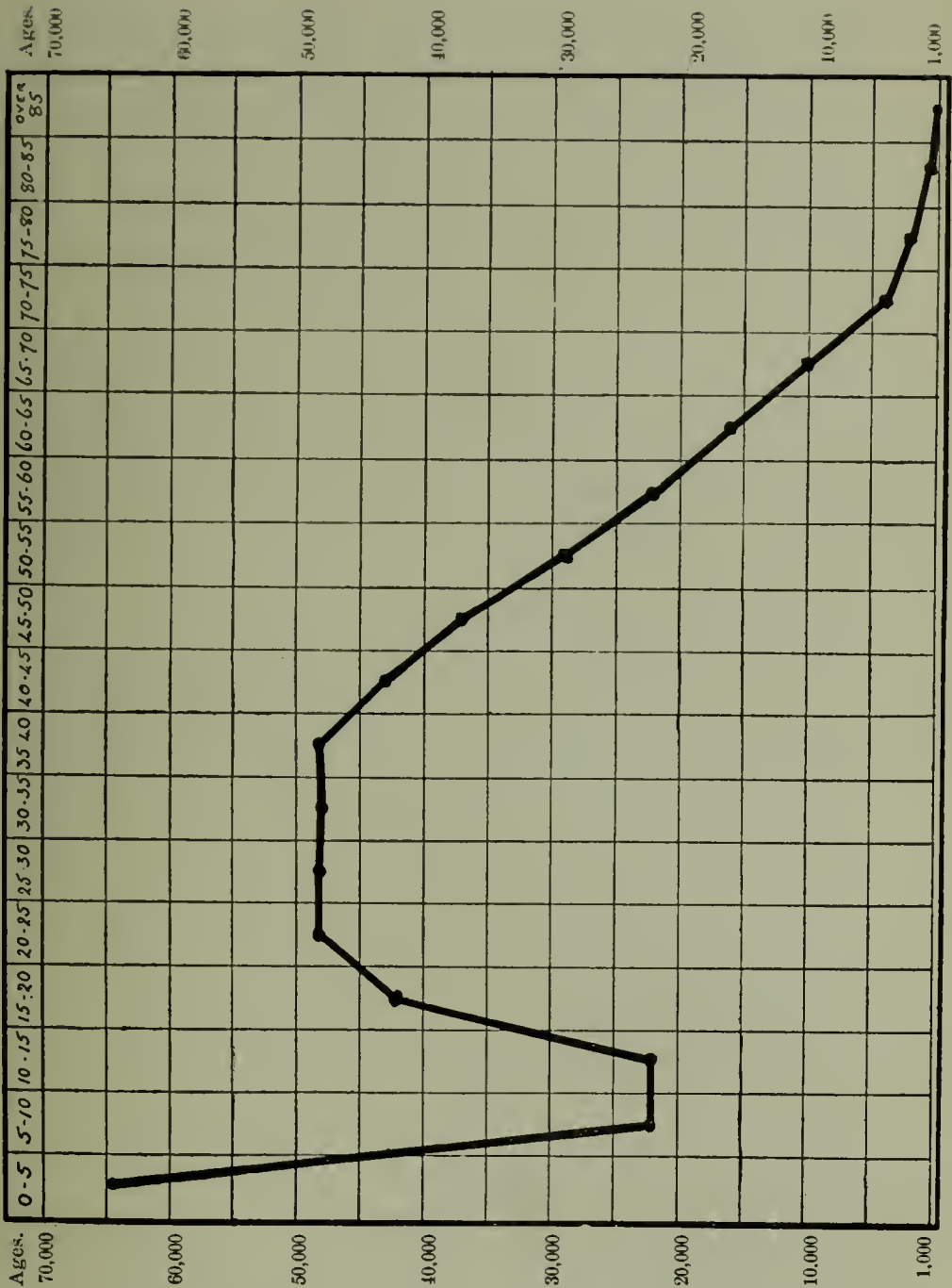
Our thanks are due to the Joint Hospital Committee for the gift of 18 hospital beds and 12 mattresses for use in the isolation of tuberculous patients in their own homes.

OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.

I record with regret that the Education Committee have not yet proceeded with the provision of open-air schools. The open-air school, in my opinion, is one of the most economical, efficient and satisfactory weapons with which to combat the scourge of tuberculosis. It surely is a wiser plan to build up the resistance of child contacts of notified cases by a few months at an open-air school at the right time, rather than to spend large sums of money on the same child in later life when it develops active tuberculosis.

Already we have 52 children at the moment of writing in whose case it is highly desirable that they should attend a class of this kind.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS (ALL FORMS)—ENGLAND AND WALES—1911-1920.



Although not generally appreciated by the public it is evident from the above graph that Tuberculosis causes more deaths in the first five years than in any other quinquennium of life. It is surely logical to assume, and evidence is accumulating to support this view, that the greatest amount of infection occurs during the early years of life, the infection apparently remaining latent until adult life in many cases. The indications appear to point clearly to an increased endeavour to raise the resistance of children to attacks of the disease at the earliest

possible time in those children in whom infection is likely to have occurred. Great success has been obtained at the Grandcher Institute in Paris by the separation from the parents and treatment in the institution of children of advanced cases of tuberculosis at the earliest possible moment after birth. Out of 2,300 children dealt with in a period of 18 years, only 7 cases of definite tubercle developed, of which only 2 died.

The next best method for the administrative control of such early infection seems to be the provision of open air classes on an extensive scale and greater care in the design of future school buildings.

SHELTERS.

Eight shelters belonging to the Corporation have been in constant use during the year. There is a growing demand for more shelters, and it is hoped to meet this by the construction of shelters in the workshop connected with the Holly Lane Sanatorium. Already an order for two additional shelters has been received from the Smethwick Health Committee and will be completed next year.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF WORK DONE AT THE TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY, CROCKETTS LANE, DURING THE YEAR 1921.

	Males.	Females.	Children under 16 Years.	Total.
Number of New Cases applying ...	105	88	150	343
Number of Re-attendances ...	2,238	1,825	1,420	5,483
Number of Insured Persons commencing treatment at the Dispensary ...	38	28	—	66
Ditto, at Romsley Hill Sanatorium ...	42	27	—	69
Ditto, at Holly Lane Sanatorium ...	34	25	—	59
New Cases taken on at Dispensary for Observation or Treatment ...	28	32	—	60
New Cases passed for Sanatoria ...	83	53	10	146
Referred to other institutions ...	73	49	77	199
Old Patients re-examined ...	228	184	205	617
Sanatoria Cases transferred to Dispensary for Observation or Treatment ...	16	14	5	35
Dispensary Cases transferred to Sanatoria ...	34	14	6	54
Home Visits:—				
Tuberculosis Officer ...				63
Nurses ...				3,316
Special after-care visits ...				178
Patients receiving injection treatment, attendances ...	621	681	514	1,816
Contacts:—				
Number of Infecting Cases ...	35	11	5	51
Number of Contacts examined ...	10	24	46	80
Number found Tuberculous ...	2	3	2	7
Number Suspected ...	7	16	27	50
Number found Non-tuberculous ...	1	5	17	23
Number of Contacts re-examined ...	1	18	30	49

X-Ray Examinations	122
Letters of introduction to other institutions	10
Surgical Dressings	440
Blanket Baths	158
TOTAL ATTENDANCES AT DISPENSARY—	
Old and New Cases	2,343 1,913 1,570 5,826
Average weekly attendances	112

ATTENDANCES AT THE DISPENSARY.

New patients are seen by appointment only, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Cases which are taken on for observation or treatment at the Dispensary are asked to attend on Tuesday or Friday mornings between 10 and 1 o'clock. Patients who have received treatment or who cannot conveniently attend in the mornings, are seen on Tuesday evenings from 5.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. by arrangement.

X-Ray examinations take place on Monday evenings commencing at 5 p.m.

On days when the Dispensary is nominally closed the nurses are occupied in work on the district.

During the year 1921, 343 persons have applied to the Dispensary for advice and treatment. Of these, 135 were insured under the National Insurance Act.

TABLE II.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Insured Persons	105	30	135
Uninsured Persons	—	58	58
Dependents of Insured Persons ...	95	55	150
	<hr/> 200 <hr/>	<hr/> 143 <hr/>	<hr/> 343 <hr/>

TABLE III.—SEX AND AGE CONSTITUTION OF THE 343 PERSONS WHO WERE EXAMINED AT THE DISPENSARY FOR ADVICE AND TREATMENT.

	Ages	0-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45 up	All
	Sex	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	Ttl. age
Pulmonary Tuberculosis:									
Definite.....		1 -	2 1	1 -	19 19	16 14	14 7	10 2	106
Suspect.....		- -	6 3	13 8	7 1	3 4	3 4	- 2	54
Tuberculosis									
Other forms		- 1	5 3	4 5	- 2	- -	- -	2 1	23
Non-Tuberculous		3 7	24 16	35 14	16 5	8 7	8 7	7 3	160
		<hr/> 4 8 <hr/>	<hr/> 37 23 <hr/>	<hr/> 53 27 <hr/>	<hr/> 42 27 <hr/>	<hr/> 27 25 <hr/>	<hr/> 25 18 <hr/>	<hr/> 19 8 <hr/>	<hr/> 343 <hr/>

VISITS.

During the year the Tuberculosis Officer paid 63 visits to patients in their own homes. The nurses paid 3,494 visits, including 178 visits in connection with the after-care of patients. It has been the aim of the Dispensary staff to foster a friendly feeling in these visits and to obviate as much as possible any suggestion of officialism or inspection.

CONTACTS.

Eighty persons living in infected houses and in intimate contact with patients suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis have been carefully examined and dealt with. Of these, 7 were found to be definitely suffering from the disease, 23 were regarded as being free from active Tuberculosis, and 50 are still under observation. Forty-nine contacts were re-examined during the year.

TABLE IV.—“CONTACTS.”

No. of infecting cases.			No. of contacts examined.			No. found tuberculous.			No. suspected.			No. of non-tuberculous		
M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.
35	11	5	10	24	46	2	3	2	7	16	27	1	5	7
<hr/>			<hr/>			<hr/>			<hr/>			<hr/>		
51			80			7			50			23		

NOTIFICATIONS.

One hundred and two notifications of Tuberculosis were received through the Medical Officer of Health. There were 88 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 14 of other forms of the disease. The following table shews the notifications received and the attack rates for each of the past ten years:—

	Notifications received:		Attack Rate per 1,000 of the population.	
	Pulmonary.	Other forms	Pulmonary.	Other forms.
1912	307	—	4.1	—
1913	318	50	4.3	0.68
1914	143	167	1.9	2.2
1915	229	103	3.1	1.4
1916	204	117	2.6	1.4
1917	206	126	2.6	1.6
1918	194	80	2.5	1.0
1919	260	60	3.5	0.8
1920	146	31	1.9	0.4
1921	88	14	1.1	0.18

The deaths from all forms of tuberculosis during the year numbered 70, of which 54 were notified cases, and 16 not notified. The ratio of the unnotified deaths to the total deaths is 22.8 per cent.

SANATORIUM TREATMENT.

TABLE SHEWING ADMISSIONS, and DISCHARGES from SANATORIA during the Twelve Months ended
December 31st, 1921.

NAME OF INSTITUTION	Number of Cases in Sanatorium on December 31st, 1920.			Number of Cases admitted during 1921.			Cases discharged or transferred to the Dispensary.			Number of Cases in Sanatorium on December 31st, 1921.			Number of Deaths.	
	Males	Females	Children under 16	Total	Males	Females	Children under 16	Total	Males	Females	Children under 16	Total	Males	Females
Romsley Hill	7	6	3	16	37	19	3	59	37	19	3	61	...	1
Holly Lane	9	3	2	14	38	21	7	66	38	16	1	62	1	2
Yardley Road	2	...	...	2	5	...	...	5	3	...	...	3	2	...
The Woodlands...	...	...	3	3	...	...	3	3	...	...	3	3	...	...
Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
City Hospital, Witton	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
King Edward Sanatorium, Midhurst	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...
East Anglia Children's Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Royal National Hospital, Ventnor	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
Berkshire and Buckshire, Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Hahnemann Convalescent Home, Bournemouth...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...
Totals	18	9	9	36	83	42	14	139	80	36	16	132	18	3

The average length of stay in the wards at Holly Lane Sanatorium was 14.06 weeks, compared with 12.75 weeks last year.

I have to thank Miss Whitehouse, the Matron of the Isolation Hospital, the nursing staff, and the members of the Joint Hospital Committee, for their loyal help and co-operation during the year.

CONDITION OF PATIENTS ON DISCHARGE (ALL INSTITUTIONS).

Markedly Improved	...	...	...	...	...	48
Improved	...	...	...	...	...	50
In Statu Quo	...	...	...	...	...	22
Worse	...	...	...	...	...	5
Died	...	...	...	...	...	7
						<hr/> 132 <hr/>

RECREATION.

The library has been a great success and much appreciated by the patients. Some of the books, however, are getting dilapidated and further contributions would be welcomed.

An attempt has been made to extend the gardening operations of the patients in connection with the graduated work prescribed for treatment, to grow as far as possible all vegetables consumed by the hospital. The Joint Hospital Committee have appointed an additional gardener to help with this work.

A bagatelle table has been kindly presented to the institution by Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers Limited, and has been placed in the day room of "D" Block.

CARPENTERS' SHOP.

Funds were handed over to the Joint Hospital Committee by the Smethwick Tuberculosis Aid Society. A carpenters' shop has been fully equipped with benches, tools, etc., next to the laundry, and an instructor attends three afternoons per week. Already a fowl-house to accommodate 30 fowls has been constructed and this will provide next spring a further source of recreation for the women patients. An order for two shelters has been received from the Health Committee and it is to be hoped that we shall receive further orders from other authorities. Large profits are not aimed at, but it is hoped to have a small balance in hand, and this will be expended by the Committee as a recreation fund on behalf of the patients.

We have again to thank Mr. T. Collins, J.P., and those ladies and gentlemen who so ably assisted him, for the series of splendid concerts which they gave at the Hospital during the year.

Through the kindness of Mr. H. V. Worwood, and the Smethwick Insurance Committee, newspapers and periodicals are supplied weekly to the patients at the Sanatorium.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

By arrangement, a treatment centre is available for Smethwick residents at the General Hospital, Birmingham, on the following days of the week:—

Day.			Time for Men.	Time for Women.
Monday	...	...	4.6 p.m.	—
Tuesday	...	...	4.6 p.m.	4.6 p.m.
Tuesday	...	...	10.12 a.m.	10.12 a.m.
Wednesday	...	...	4.6 p.m.	—
Friday	...	...	4.6 p.m.	4.6 p.m.

The number of Smethwick residents treated during the year was 73, as compared with 120 in 1920, and 143 in 1919.

- A. Number of persons dealt with during the year at or in connection with, the Out-patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from:—

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Soft Chancre	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Conditions other than Venereal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73

- B. Total number of attendances at the Out-patient Clinic of all patients residing in Smethwick ... 1,744
- C. Aggregate number of "In-patient days" of all patients residing in Smethwick ... 45
- D. Number of doses of Salvarsan substitutes given ... 244

Pathological examinations made during the year 1921 relating to persons residing in the County Borough of Smethwick:—

For detection of Spirochetes	...	...	...	...	2
For detection of Gonococci	...	...	...	...	44
For Wassermann reaction	...	...	...	...	120
Total	...	...	...	...	166

Seven enquiries in connection with the scheme were received at the Health Office during the year.

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST VENEREAL DISEASES.

"HEALTH WEEK" was celebrated from 7th to 12th November, 1921, and our energies were concentrated on an educational campaign against Venereal Diseases. Mr. H. R. Elliott, the Chief Lay Speaker of the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, visited Smethwick and throughout the week he and the Medical Officer of Health addressed meetings of the male employees in twelve of the larger works in the Borough.

One public meeting was held at the Baptist Hall, Regent Street, under the chairmanship of Councillor C. C. Jones. The Chairman of the Health Committee (Councillor Dr. Bradshaw) was present. A second meeting was held at the end of the week at "The Holly Bush" Inn, under the auspices of the Smethwick (No. 4) Branch of the A.E.U., through the courtesy of Councillor F. Aspy. The lectures were illustrated by lantern slides and pathological specimens.

The works' meetings were largely attended and the Lecturers had an enthusiastic reception. During the week 2,500 booklets ("How to Fight Venereal Disease" and "Venereal Diseases and their Effects") were distributed free of cost at the close of the addresses.

SMALL POX.

The South Staffordshire Joint Small Pox Hospital, situated at Bagnall, Stoke-on-Trent, is available for the reception of any cases of the disease which may occur in the Borough. No case was notified during the year.

The procedure to be adopted in the event of a case of Small Pox occurring in the district was set out in detail on pages 44 and 45 of my Report for 1920.

In the month of August, 1921, the Assistant M.O.H. was called in by a local practitioner to two cases of suspected Small Pox in Sandwell Ward. It was deemed advisable to remove both patients to the Small Pox Hospital at Bagnall. Vaccination of the contacts and disinfection of the premises, clothing, bedding and the vehicles used to convey the patients was immediately carried out. The cases after observation as suspects proved not to be cases of Small Pox.

The Vaccination Officer's return for the year ended 30th June, 1921, is appended, and again shews a very large number of conscientious objections. The returns for the past ten years indicate the increasing number of unvaccinated persons in the area.

VACCINATION RETURNS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Year ending 30th June,	Births	Vaccinations	Insusceptible	Conscientious objections	Died unvaccinated	Postponed by medical certificate	Gone to other districts	Gone—no address	Outstanding	Percentage of conscientious objections*
1921	1,884	1,046	5	608	119	32	10	20	44	34·4
1920	1,944	1,153	2	549	118	44	17	25	36	29
1919	1,438	816	—	421	104	20	21	23	33	31
1918	1,494	853	6	418	116	40	16	11	34	30
1917	1,689	1,042	3	425	120	36	15	20	28	27
1916	1,762	1,091	1	430	120	34	13	36	37	26
1915	1,994	1,211	3	472	153	64	15	54	22	25·6
1914	2,041	1,220	2	485	186	49	20	52	27	26·1
1913	1,974	1,302	1	376	158	45	18	63	11	20·7
1912	1,812	1,212	1	297	171	50	16	42	23	18·1

* In calculating these percentages, the number dying unvaccinated has been deducted from the total number of births.

FOOD POISONING.

During the month of January there was an outbreak of food poisoning after eating pork, which first came to my notice by the report in the paper of the death of an elderly woman at West Smethwick. Investigations shewed that there were nine cases in five families. Specimens of faeces were examined bacteriologically for *b. enteritidis* of Gartner, *b. paratyphosus B*, and *b. Aertryck*, with negative results. Blood serum from several cases was negative also to these organisms. Unfortunately it was impossible to obtain specimens of the condemned food and in the absence of definite bacteriological results it may be assumed that the illness was due to ptomaines. The verdict at the inquest on the fatal case was given as "Accidental death," the Coroner added that the victim had died as the result of shock due to rupture caused by poisoning set up by the pork.

A further outbreak of food poisoning occurred during the month of July. Four families were concerned, 13 persons in all being affected, one fatally. Very extensive investigations were carried out and the results reported to the Ministry of Health. The suspected food consisted of various joints of beef and mutton purchased on the same day by the several families from the same butcher's shop in the Borough. Bacteriological examination of post-mortem specimens from the fatal case and of clinical material from the other patients revealed the presence of food poisoning bacilli. The spleen, small intestine and heart's blood of the fatal case yielded an organism of the *Salmonella* group of bacilli, which, tested serologically, was found to belong to the *b. Suipestifer* (mutton) sub-group. Unfortunately no sample of the food involved could be obtained and washings from the ice-box in the butcher's shop did not yield similar organisms.

In the course of investigations at the same butcher's shop the week following this outbreak a quantity of decomposed meat (4 cwts.) was seized. A sample of this was examined bacteriologically, but did not yield organisms similar to those found in the above cases. In connection with this seizure the butcher was prosecuted, convicted and fined heavily. (See page 42).

At the inquest on the fatal case the Coroner returned a verdict to the effect that the woman died from eating meat that was not fit for human food.

Dr. J. A. Delmege, who was Acting M.O.H. at the time of this second outbreak, and the staff of the Department. are to be congratulated on the excellence of the work done in clearing up the cause of this outbreak and probably preventing similar results the following week by the prompt seizure of a second consignment of bad meat.

Summary (For Reference) of Nursing Arrangements, other Institutions available for the District.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) **GENERAL**:—The Smethwick District Nursing Association, The Edward Cheshire Nurses' Home, 2, Bearwood Road, Smethwick, has one nurse-matron and two nurses, who undertake general nursing among the poorer inhabitants in the district. A grant of £25 per annum is made to the Association by the Council for emergency nursing of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum when for some unforeseen reason the nurses of the Health Department cannot attend.

(b) **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**:—No service provided but a panel of handywomen is kept at the Health Office and their services utilised in certain cases.

MIDWIVES.

Three midwives are subsidised by the Council. Twenty-two midwives reside in the Borough and a total of 34 notified their intention to practice in the area during the year.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Two School Clinics are provided, one at 95, Soho Street, Six Ways, and one at Smethwick Hall Schools. The days and times of attendance are as follows:—

TREATMENT CLINICS:—

Six Ways: Monday, 2.30—5; Tuesday, 2.30—5; Wednesday, 2.30—5; Thursday, 9.30—11.30; Friday, 9.30—1.

SMETHWICK HALL: Monday, 9.30—11.30; Tuesday, 9.30—1; Wednesday, 9.30—11.30; Thursday, 9.30—11.30; Friday, 9.30—1.

INSPECTION CLINIC:—

Six Ways: Friday, 9.30—1.

Smethwick Hall: Thursday, 9.30—1.

EYE CLINIC:—

Smethwick Hall: Monday, 2—5.

CLEANSING STATION (Scabies, etc.):—

Six Ways: Monday, 9.30—11.30; Wednesday, 9.30—11.30; Friday, 2.30—5.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES:—

No. 1, Baptist Hall, Rawlings Road: Monday, 2.30—4.30.

No. 2, 95, Soho Street: Thursday, 2.30—4.30.

No. 3, St. Stephen's Hall, Sydenham Road: Wednesday, 2.30—4.30.

No. 4, Smethwick Hall School, Devonshire Road: Tuesday, 2.30—4.30.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC:—

Health Department, Council House, Smethwick: Saturday, 10—1.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY, CROCKETTS LANE:—

New cases seen by appointment on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m.

Cases taken on for observation of treatment attend on Tuesdays or Fridays, between 10—1, or by appointment on Tuesday evenings, from 5.30—8.

X-RAY EXAMINATIONS, AT THE TECHNICAL SCHOOL, CROCKETTS LANE:—

Monday evenings commencing at 5 p.m.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINICS, AT THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM:—

			Men.	Women.
Monday	...	...	4.6 p.m.	— a.m.
Tuesday	...	...	10.12 a.m.	10.12 a.m.
Tuesday	...	...	4.6 p.m.	4.6 p.m.
Wednesday	...	...	4.6 p.m.	— a.m.
Friday	...	...	4.6 p.m.	4.6 p.m.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

(1) TUBERCULOSIS:—

Holly Lane Sanatorium: 30 beds, and 24 beds for advanced or chronic cases.

Romsley Hill Sanatorium (Birmingham Hospital Saturday Fund):
The Smethwick Council reserved 20 beds during the year.

For Surgical Tuberculosis: Authority given to send up to six cases to "The Woodlands," Northfield, or Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripples Hospital and College, Alton, Hants

(2) MATERNITY:—Nil.**(3) CHILDREN:—Nil.****(4) FEVER.—**

Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital, Holly Lane, Smethwick (total 40 beds): Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases only.

(5) SMALL POX:—

South Staffordshire Joint Small Pox Hospital at Bagnall, Stoke-on-Trent.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS, AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

None at present.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For Infectious Cases: Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee have motor ambulance which is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Holly Lane, Smethwick (Tel., Smethwick 159).

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases: Town Ambulance, kept at the Fire Station, Rolfe Street, Smethwick (Tel., Smethwick 22).

SMETHWICK & OLDBURY JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.
STATEMENT OF CASES ADMITTED AND DISCHARGED DURING THE YEAR 1921.

	Number of Cases in Hospital on December 31st, 1920.				Number of Cases Admitted during 1921.				Cases Discharged, Died, or Transferred to other Institutions during 1921.				Number of Cases in Hospital on December 31st, 1921.			
	Males.	Females.	Children under 16	Total.	Males.	Females.	Children under 16	Total.	Males.	Females.	Children under 16	Total.	Males.	Females.	Children under 16	Total.
SMETHWICK :																
Scarlet Fever ...	1	...	16	17	7	7	193	207	6	7	194	207	2	...	15	17
Diphtheria ...	...	...	6	6	2	5	49	56	1	5	49	55	1	...	6	7
OLDBURY :																
Scarlet Fever ...	...	2	8	10	2	2	40	44	2	4	42	48	...	...	6	6
Diphtheria ...	...	...	2	2	1	3	8	12	1	3	10	14	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	1	2	32	35	12	17	290	319	10	19	295	324	3	...	27	30

SMETHWICK :

Scarlet Fever ...

Diphtheria ...

OLDBURY :

Scarlet Fever ...

Diphtheria ...

Totals ...

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Arrangements for the necessary bacteriological work are made with the Public Health Laboratory of the University of Birmingham. The number of specimens examined during the year and the results are set out below:—

Nature of Specimen.					Number. Positive. Negative.		
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli—							
Suspects	...	...	...	...	323	81	242
Contacts	...	...	...	...	21	3	18
Convalescents	...	...	...	...	283	67	216
Nasal Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli—							
Suspects	...	...	...	...	17	6	11
Contacts	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Convalescents	...	...	...	...	13	4	9
Other Specimens for Diphtheria Bacilli					7	3	4
Blood for Widal's Test ...					20	2	18
Fæces for Enteric or Dysentery Group					8	2	6
Urine for Enteric or Dysentery Group					3	—	3
Blood for Dysentery Group ...					1	—	1
Pus from Eyes for Gonococci ...					16	6	10
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli ...					319	48	271
Totals ...					1033	222	811

Local Acts, Bye-Laws, etc., relating to Public Health, in force in the County Borough of Smethwick.

LOCAL ACT.

Smethwick Corporation Act, 1901.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Baths and Washhouses Acts—Adopted 11th Sept., 1885.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890—Adopted 10th Oct., 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890—Adopted 14th Nov., 1890.

Private Street Works Act, 1892—Adopted 10th March, 1893.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—the following parts adopted 18th Feb., 1908—Part II., Sections 17 to 33; Part III., Sections 34 to 38, 45 to 47, 49 to 51; Part IV., Sections 52 to 66 and Section 68; Part V., the whole part; Part X., the whole part.

BYE-LAWS.

Street Cleansing and Nuisances, 1856.

Slaughter-houses, 1893.

Nuisances, 1914.

Good Rule and Government, 1921.

REGULATIONS.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, 1901.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

Registered: (1) Legitimate, 1,911; (2) Illegitimate, 60; (3), total, 1,971.
Notified within 36 hours of birth:—

- (1) Live Births, 1,761; (2) Still Births, 62; (3) total, 1,823.
- (1) By Midwives, 1,716; (2) by Parents and Doctors, 107.

INFANT DEATHS.

Number: (1) Legitimate, 165; (2) Illegitimate, 9; (3) total, 174.
Rate per 1,000 births: (1) Legitimate 86.3; (2) Illegitimate, 150.0;
(3) total, 88.28.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Childbirth:
(1) From Sepsis, 6; (2) other causes, 3.

MIDWIVES.

Number practising in the District: (1) Trained, 14; (2) Untrained, 20.

HEALTH VISITORS.

Visits paid by Health Visitors during the year:—

- To Expectant Mothers: (1) First Visits, 75; (2) total visits, 107.
- To Infants under 1: (1) First Visits, 1,913; (2) total visits, 5,085.
- To Children 1—5: Total visits, 1,408.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The Council agreed to a scholarship of £30 for pupil midwives and further, a maintenance grant at the rate of £148 per annum for a period of two years to the pupil when trained, subject to proper regulations and safeguards.

Under this scheme two pupils were trained and successfully passed their examinations, commencing to practice in the Borough towards the end of the year, one in Victoria Ward and one in Spon Lane Ward. A third midwife, already trained, started under the maintenance grant in Sandwell Ward.

It is satisfactory here to note that while in 1919 there were 36 midwives practising in the Borough, of whom 6 were certified and 30 not certified, at the end of 1921 there were 34 midwives practising in the area of whom 14 were certified by examination.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Number of Cases Notified: 31. Genuine cases, 26; Non-genuine, 8.

Cases treated by District Nursing Association Staff, 1.

Cases treated by Health Department Nurses: 14.

Cases treated at Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital: 5.

Cases resulting in impairment of vision: Nil.

Exudate from the eyes examined in 16 instances: Gonococci found in 6 cases; not found in 10 cases.

Notifications for the past years:—

1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
34	61	43	54	49

Particular attention was paid during last year and has been continued this year in connection with the use by the midwives of 3 per cent solution of Silver Nitrate, which is provided by this Department free of charge for the prevention of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. The Medical Officer of Health has continued to interview each midwife when a case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum has occurred in her practice. The effect of this was seen in 1920 when notifications increased to 61, of which only 46 proved genuine cases, while in 1921 we have a total of 34 notifications with only 26 genuine cases.

The mild cases have been treated by the midwife under the supervision of the doctor, but where the doctor has considered it necessary, one of the District Nursing Staff has carried out treatment up to June 30th, 1921. Since that date the treatment of all cases has been undertaken by the nursing staff of the Health Department. The same arrangement with the District Nursing Association has remained for help in emergencies or at times when it is impracticable for any member of our own staff to attend. Severe cases are sent to the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital.

It is gratifying to see that the attitude of the midwives with regard to the prevention of the disease appears to have improved.

On receipt of a notification from a midwife of a case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, a nurse from this Department visits and leaves the following card:—

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.

Health Department,

Council House, Smethwick.

To Dr.....

I have visited this case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum following notification by the midwife and have advised the parents to call in their doctor.

In the meantime I have proceeded with treatment with lavage of eyes and instillation thrice daily of 20 per cent. Argyrol. Should you wish treatment to be continued or altered would you please write instruction on the back of this card.

Time.....

.....Nurse.

Date.....

At present no provision is directly made for the treatment of the mother, but the Health Visitor on visiting the case makes what enquiries she can and tries to persuade the mother to undergo treatment at the hands of her doctor or at the General Hospital, Birmingham.

The visits paid to cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum by the nurses of our Health Department numbered 282.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

This clinic has continued and is growing increasingly popular with the mothers. It was held during the year at the Council House in the Assistant Medical Officer's Room in a small hut, on Saturday mornings, many cases being selected during the week at the four Infant Welfare Centres. The work has been hampered by lack of suitable accommodation and a proper waiting room, but it is hoped that improved accommodation will be available next year.

Patients have been sent by the midwives and also by the Health Visitors. In the event of a case being recommended to hospital and taken out of the hands of the midwife, a fee of £1 1s. is paid to the midwife under the Council's scheme.

Seventy-five patients were examined at the Clinic during the year and there were 32 re-examinations.

MIDWIVES.

During the year 34 midwives gave notice of their intention to practice in the area; of these, 14 are trained and 20 bona-fide midwives. One bona-fide midwife was removed from the Roll during the year, one retired, and one left the district.

A total of 1,716 births were attended by midwives, being 94.1 per cent. of the total births. Medical aid was summoned in 91 of these cases.

Complications for which medical aid was sought:—

MOTHER:—

Breech presentation	...	...	...	...	...	9
Face presentation	...	...	...	...	...	2
Occipito posterior	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other abnormal presentations	...	...	...	...	...	3
Eclampsia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	2
Large Head	...	...	...	...	...	3
Contracted Pelvis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	6
Placenta Prævia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Retained Placenta	...	...	...	...	...	5
Torn Perineum	...	...	...	...	...	20
Miscarriage	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	17

CHILD:—

Dangerous feebleness	...	...	...	...	...	14
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	1

In April, 1920, an office record of midwives' transactions was introduced in the form of a small individual book in which is recorded details of inspections and interviews; records of cases requiring medical assistance; ophthalmia notifications (and the results); puerperal fever cases; still-births; deaths; cessation of breast-feeding; and liability to be a source of infection.

Routine visits paid to midwives	74
Visits in connection with Puerperal Fever	9
Number of notices received re—	
Intention to practice	34
Sending for Medical Help	91
Attendance at still-births (under C.M.B. Rules) ...	23
Attendance at still-births (under Notification of Births Act)	51
Death of mother or child	3
Preparing dead body for burial	Nil
Cessation of breast-feeding	5
Liability to be a source of infection	1

HEALTH VISITORS.

In practice the town is divided into five districts, to each of which one Health Visitor is allotted. Her duties include:—

- School visiting and attendance at medical inspection.
- Following up certain cases until treatment is completed.
- Attendance at Infant Welfare Centre for her district and home-visiting of children who are attending.
- Routine visiting of new births notified.
- Visiting tuberculous patients.
- Attendance in rotation at the Cleansing Centre.
- Attendance at the Ante-Natal Clinic.
- Visiting expectant mothers.
- Visiting cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
- Treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum (since July, 1921).
- Routine inspection of midwives.
- Investigation of cases for grants of milk at reduced price.
- Visiting mentally defectives in the area.
- Visiting children of war pensioners when requested by the War Pensions Committee.
- Visits in connection with non-notifiable infectious disease.

The total number of visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year is 10,980.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are four Centres, each open one half-day per week. The Health Visitor for the district is in charge at each Centre, assisted by voluntary workers. The Lady Assistant M.O.H. attends at each session. The Centres continue to be much appreciated by the mothers, the average weekly attendance during the year being 297—an increase of 49 weekly over last year. The names of 1,141 children were added to the rolls during the year.

Centre.	Day and time of meeting.	Average attendance		
		Under 1 year.	1-5 years	Total
1. Rawlings Road ...	Monday, 2.30 p.m.	70	24	96
2. 95, Soho Street ...	Thursday, 2.30 p.m.	70	13	83
3. Syderham Road ...	Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.	44	12	56
4. Devonshire Road...	Tuesday, 2.30 p.m.	52	9	62

The best thanks of the Corporation and the town are due to the voluntary workers who have worked so well at the Centres throughout the year.

The babies are examined by the doctor on their first attendance and subsequently at intervals. Where treatment is found necessary the mother is referred to the hospitals or to her own doctor.

Some progress has been made in improving the times of feeding, and the mothers are more readily adopting the intervals advised, i.e., 3—4 hours, and they pay more attention to regularity of feeding. In this way much gastro-intestinal disturbance in the children is avoided. Considering the excessively long and hot summer which we passed through, it is a matter for comparative congratulation that we had only 24 deaths of infants under 2 years from gastro-intestinal trouble. In 1911, when the last excessively hot summer occurred, there were 99 deaths from this cause. It is gratifying to note that the total Infant Mortality which was 140 per 1,000 births in 1911, has fallen to 88 per 1,000 births for the year under review. The dummy habit, I regret to say, still remains unbroken.

All along an endeavour is made to impress upon the mother that the natural method of breast-feeding reigns paramount, and that the finest food yet devised for the human infant is to be obtained at the mother's breast. The following figures shew that some success is being achieved in this direction:—

The proportion of—

(a) Breast fed children is—				1920.	1921.
Rawlings Road	...	...	...	45.1%	57.4%
Devonshire Road	...	...	...	52.8%	64.2%
Sandwell	...	...	...	60.7%	53.1%
Soho	...	...	...	57.9%	66.4%

(b) Artificially fed children—

Rawlings Road	...	...	...	40.2%	25.9%
Devonshire Road	...	...	...	39.4%	20.8%
Sandwell	...	...	...	21.7%	29.1%
Soho	...	...	...	29.0%	21.1%

(c) Complementary and supplementary feeding (breast, supplemented by artificial feeding)—

Rawlings Road	14.7%	16.7%
Devonshire Road	7.8%	15.0%
Sandwell	17.6%	17.8%
Soho	13.1%	12.5%

While a considerable amount of credit is undoubtedly due to the educational campaign carried out day by day on the above lines, yet it is possible that the prevalence of unemployment may have had an influence on the mothers owing to the economic advantages of breast feeding over artificial feeding.

	1920.	1921.
Total attendances at the four Centres	11,926	13,744
Pounds of dried milk sold	22,772	14,542

BABY WEEK.

Baby Week was celebrated this year by special lectures given at the Infant Welfare Centres and by the organisation of competitions for the mothers attending. The following is a list of the competitions held at each Centre:—

1. Best Home-made garment for children up to 5 years.
2. Best adapted garment for children up to 5 years.
3. Best washed garments.

Two prizes (First, 10s.; Second, 7s. 6d.) were offered for each competition at each Centre.

In connection with the Ante-Natal Clinic, prizes of £1 and 10s. were offered for the best complete set of baby's first clothes made by the mothers attending this Clinic.

The standard of the work submitted was good on the whole, but there is great need for some voluntary workers to come forward and help in connection with sewing classes, demonstrations in adapting cut-down garments, economic marketing, and elementary cooking.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

During the year there were 9 deaths in, or in consequence of, child-birth, 6 from Puerperal Fever, 1 from Post-partum Hæmorrhage, 1 from Puerperal Albuminuria, and 1 from Embolus. In connection with the latter case the midwife concerned was, after investigation, struck off the Roll of the Central Midwives' Board. The maternal death-rate works out at 4.5 per 1,000 births. The rate for England and Wales for 1920 was 4.12,

SUPPLY OF MILK TO EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

The administration of the scheme for the supply of milk to necessitous mothers and their children, threw considerable extra work upon the Department throughout the year, the prevailing unemployment resulting in an increasingly large number of applications for assistance. In April, 1921, as the result of representations made by the Ministry of Health a slightly modified scheme was adopted. Grants of milk at reduced prices are made to—

- (a) Nursing mothers who are actually suckling their infants;
- (b) Expectant mothers during the last two months of pregnancy,
- (c) Children up to three years;
- (d) Exceptionally to children from 3 to 5 years on the certificate of the doctor;

in cases where the family income falls below a certain limit.

The quantity supplied does not ordinarily exceed 1 pint per eligible person, per day; but in exceptional cases of infants 3 to 18 months, $1\frac{1}{4}$ pints may be supplied on certificate of doctor. Orders are granted for 14 days in the first instance, applications to be reviewed every two weeks.

Cases receiving assistance during the year: 849.

Total cost: £1,012 14s. 2d.

Average cost per case: £1 3s. 10d.

Average duration of case: Eight weeks.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1921.

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CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 w'ks.	1-2 w'ks.	2-3 w'ks.	3-4 w'ks.	Total under 4 w'ks.	1-2 m'ths.	2-3 m'ths.	3-4 m'ths.	4-5 m'ths.	5-6 m'ths.	6-7 m'ths.	7-8 m'ths.	8-9 m'ths.	9-10 m'ths.	10-11 m'ths.	11-12 m'ths.	Total under 1 year
All causes { Certified... Uncertified	54 2	14 ...	8 ...	3 ...	79 2	19 ...	10 ...	8 ...	7 ...	12 ...	1 ...	5 ...	9 ...	7 ...	7 ...	8 ...	172 2
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	3
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Syphilis ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Diseases of Spinal Cord ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions, with teething ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Other Infantile Convulsions ...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	5
Laryngismus Stridulus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	8
Broncho-pneumonia ...	...	...	1	...	1	2	3	1	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	22
Pneumonia ...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	8
Inflammation of Stomach ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	22
Infective Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gastro-enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Intestinal Obstruction ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	2	...	...	3	...	...	...	11
Acute Nephritis... ..	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Impetigo of Scalp ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cong. Malformation of Heart...	2	...	1	...	3	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Other Cong. Malformations ...	2	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Premature Birth ...	38	6	1	2	47	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus...	5	5	2	1	13	6	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Icterus Neonatorum ...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Disease of Umbilicus ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Atelectasis ...	2	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Injuries at Birth ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Accidental Suffocation...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals ...	56	14	8	3	81	19	10	8	7	12	1	5	9	7	7	8	174

BIRTHS DURING THE YEAR { Legitimate 1,911.
Illegitimate 60.

DEATHS DURING THE YEAR { Legitimate infants 165.
Illegitimate infants 9.

Rate, 86.3.
Rate, 150.0.

Sanitary Administration.

WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS UNDER ARTICLE XX. OF THE SANITARY OFFICERS (OUTSIDE LONDON) ORDER, 1910.

The work of the inspectorial staff in relation to the various duties imposed by the above Order has been well administered. Systematic inspections are constantly made and details recorded, and these are followed up by re-inspections to ensure that any defects found are satisfactorily and properly abated. All complaints receive the earliest possible attention and are dealt with forthwith. Frequent periodical visits are made in respect of food supplies and all places where food is prepared or sold or stored, and any necessary action taken accordingly. The submission of samples of food and drink to the Public Analyst has been well maintained and proceedings instituted; re-adulterated samples after report have been presented to the Health Committee. In all instances of infectious disease special visits are immediately made and full tabulated particulars obtained and submitted to the Medical Officer of Health. There is a considerable amount of overcrowding in the Borough, but generally speaking it is impossible to get this nuisance abated owing to the housing shortage. The inspectors are regularly calling my attention to these matters, but the difficulty of remedying this nuisance is enormous. Details of the sanitary administrative work are set forth in the following sections of this Report.

INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

The boats inspected during the year numbered forty five and no contraventions of the regulations were found.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS. (RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1918).

During the year, the records of the Department show that 955 rats were destroyed, as against 1,019 in 1920, and 676 in 1919.

COMPLAINTS.

Complaints relating to various nuisances and defective conditions numbered 490, as compared with 375 in the previous year. Stopped up drains and water closets, due in a great measure to careless use, have been numerous. Every complaint receives attention as soon as possible and steps are taken to secure the abatement of the nuisance. The visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors in this connection are also important as affording an opportunity of impressing upon the careless tenant the necessity of care and cleanliness in health matters in general and in the proper use of drains and water closets.

Complaints referred to the Borough Surveyor ... 35

Complaints referred to the S.S.W. Works Turncock ... 21

Complaints received in connection with 977 houses and inspections revealed the following defects:—

Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	182
Roofs and Eaves Gutters Defective	...	...	...	...	206
Blocked Yard and W.C. Drains	...	...	...	...	109
Yard Surfaces Defective	...	...	...	...	16
Defective Sinks and Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	42
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	29
Floors, Walls, etc., Defective	...	...	...	...	174
W.C.'s without proper Flushing Arrangements	...	...	...	...	105
Ashbins or Ashplaces Defective	...	...	...	...	115
Water Closets Defective	...	...	...	...	66
Waste Water Closets Defective	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation	...	...	...	...	40
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	7
Nuisance from Animals	...	...	...	...	12
Water Fittings Defective	...	...	...	...	19
Dampness	...	...	...	...	58
Insufficient Water Supply	...	...	...	...	59
Dangerous Buildings	22
Insufficient Drainage	4
Defective Drainage	25
					<hr/>
					1291
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SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

	Visits paid.	Defects found.
Housing	74	585
On Complaint	977	1291
Miscellaneous	172	5
Infectious Diseases	618	107
Slaughter-houses	134	—
Meat and Food Shops	146	—
Factories	22	26
Workshops	64	7
Bakehouses	31	6
Cowsheds	5	—
Dairies and Milkshops	123	12
Offensive Trades	3	—
Pigstyes	33	3
Canal Boats	45	—
Visits to Work in Progress	807	—
Drains Tested	35	16
Smoke Observations	18	—
Re-inspections re Notices Served	1138	—
Stables	22	2
Theatres and Picture Houses	33	—
Food Poisoning	40	—
Water Samples	2	—
Housing Enquiries	75	—
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4617		2060
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VARIETY OF DEFECTS.

Dirty Premises requiring cleansing	264
Roofs, Spouting and Eaves Gutters defective	270
Yard and W.C. Drains blocked	118
Yard Surfaces defective	58
Defective Sinks and Waste Pipes	70
Accumulations of offensive matter	36
Floors, Walls, etc. defective	253
W.C.'s without proper flushing arrangements	131
Ashbins or Ashplaces defective	200
Water Closets defective	123
Waste Water Closets defective	1
Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation	100
Overcrowding	9
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	18
Water Fittings defective	31
Breach of By-laws	3
Premises Registered	15
Houses without sinks	28
Dampness	109
Insufficient Water Supply	90
Dangerous Buildings, etc.	25
Insufficient Drainage	31
Defective Drainage	50
Insufficient Closet Accommodation	24
Insufficient Food Pantry	3
	<hr/>
	2060
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LETTERS AND NOTICES SENT OUT.

Letters in relation to Sanitary Work	1339
Preliminary Notices	653
Secondary Notices	137
Statutory Notices	171
Infectious Disease	222
Housing Notices	80
	<hr/>
	2602
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INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS, AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There is as yet no Public Abattoir in the Borough. Inspection is carried out at the various private slaughter-houses. In order to ensure an efficient inspection of the animals and carcasses frequent visits must be paid at the times of slaughtering. It is worth placing on record that the local butchers are always ready and willing to render every assistance by reporting any suspicious matters they themselves may meet with.

The number of slaughter-houses in the Borough is as follows:—

	1914	Jan., 1921.	Dec., 1921.
Licensed	13	8	8
Registered	10	6	5
	—	—	—
	23	14	13
	—	—	—

The conditions of the slaughter-houses vary somewhat, but the majority, especially the licensed ones which have been recently built, are well constructed. The old registered ones, which were built at a time when little regard was paid to their suitability, are not so presentable in appearance and are more difficult to keep clean. They are all subject to the same Bye-laws and Regulations, which have been complied with.

The number of visits paid to slaughter-houses was 134, as compared with 213 the previous year.

The following is a summary of the number of animals and carcasses examined during the year, numbering 352:—

	Before Slaughter.	During Slaughter.	After Slaughter.	Total.
Oxen	13	4	65	82
Cows	—	—	3	3
Calves	—	—	6	6
Sheep	—	—	113	113
Pigs	6	—	142	148
	—	—	—	—
	19	4	329	352
	—	—	—	—

The following were seized by the Inspector as being diseased or unsound.—

Two Ox lungs—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	15½ lbs.
Ox liver—Distoma Hepaticum	...	...	..	15 „
Leg of lamb—decomposition	...	...	...	4 „
Beef and Mutton—decomposition	...	...	...	448 „
Loin of Veal—decomposition	...	...	...	3½ „
Six Hams—decomposition	...	...	...	71½ „
Six tins Tomatoes—decomposition...	...	...	...

The following were voluntarily surrendered for destruction:—

Pigs lungs and liver—Hydatid Cysts	...	...	10 lbs.
Three boxes Kippers—decomposition	...	...	—
26 tins Condensed Milk—decomposition	...	...	—
60 Boiled Crabs—decomposition	...	...	—
76 tins Evaporated Milk—decomposition	...	...	—
11 tins Pears—decomposition	...	...	—
One Preserved Tongue—decomposition	...	...	—
One Pig's Head—tuberculosis	...	...	14 ,,
Tomatoes—decomposition	...	...	112 ,,
Ox heart, Stomach and Trimmings—inflammation and Pericarditis	...	...	25 ,,
Side of Bacon—decomposition	...	...	70 ,,

FOOD SHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

During the year frequent visits were paid to all premises where food was prepared or sold, such as Butchers' shops, fishmongers, green-grocers, bakehouses and the various public markets. The manner of storage and preparation of food for human consumption is also made the subject of careful observation at the time of the Inspector's visit, and where necessary verbal instructions are given as to the importance of clean and sanitary conditions in connection with food supply. Some serious cases of food poisoning occurred in the borough as a result of eating contaminated mutton, which had been exposed for sale in a butcher's shop. Altogether thirteen people were affected and there was one death. (For details see page 25). A visit was made to the butcher's shop in question and a seizure was made of 48 pieces of meat (448 lbs.) which was in a bad state of decomposition. The meat was condemned and proceedings taken, with the result that the butcher was fined £40 and 12 guineas costs—total £52 12s.

Legal proceedings were also instituted in the case of some unsound hams and tinned tomatoes. On the 4th March a seizure of 6 hams and 6 tins of tomatoes was made at the Public Market, Windmill Lane. Decomposition was present in the hams and they were quite unfit for human food. The tinned tomatoes were more or less "Blown," and the tins themselves exhibited a most unwholesome and corrosive condition and the contents were quite unfit for human food. Summonses were issued in respect of each case and a fine of £20 was imposed in respect of the hams and a fine of £10 in respect of the tomatoes. The total fines and costs in the matter of the exposure of unsound food amounted to £82 12s,

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION AND THE EXTENT OF THEIR USE.

The diseases included in the Infectious Disease (Notification) Acts 1889 and 1899 are as follows:—Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhus Fever, Enteric Fever, Relapsing Fever, Continued Fever, Puerperal Fever, Erysipelas and Asiatic Cholera, to which have been added Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Poliomyelitis, Polio-Encephalitis and Encephalitis-Lethargica, Malaria, Dysentery, Trench Fever, Acute Primary Pneumonia and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia. All notifiable diseases are investigated and particulars in each case recorded and the subsequent disinfection of the infected premises and the contents of the rooms thereof has entailed the following work. During the year 712 rooms were disinfected by means of spraying, and with few exceptions all infected bedding was removed to be disinfected in the steam disinfecter. In the majority of instances notices were served to strip paper from walls and to cleanse and linewash. In addition to the usual disinfections we have also been requested to disinfect rooms after such diseases as Cancer, Measles, Scabies, and verminous conditions. The following is a list of the various disinfections carried out:—

Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Small Pox (Suspected)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	387
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Encephalitis-Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
							712

MILK SUPPLY. (DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS, 1885 AND 1889).

The milkshops and cowsheds have been regularly visited during the year and care as to cleanliness and the observation of the Regulations have at all times been impressed on all concerned in the production and handling of milk. Generally speaking they are all well kept, but in several instances vendors had to be warned of the undesirability of selling other articles which would tend to contaminate milk. In view of the liability of milk to contamination, circulars containing a series of rules and advice on proper storage, cleanliness of milk vessels and the importance of covering the vessels are always forwarded to milk vendors before the summer season in order that they may take every precaution against dirt and flies. It is gratifying to report that this advice is readily accepted and acted upon.

MILKSHOPS.

Milkshops on Register at beginning of year ...	...	285
Number added during the year ...	...	23
Number removed during the year ...	...	—
Milkshops on Register at the end of Year ...	...	308

One hundred and twenty-eight visits were paid to these places during the year.

The number of cowsheds in the Borough is 7.

THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS AND MARGARINE ACT.

During the year 312 samples were analysed, as against 265 samples for the previous year. Forty-one samples were certified as not genuine, as compared with twenty-eight samples in the foregoing year. Milk is responsible for the majority of the returns as not genuine. Of the thirty-nine samples of milk certified as not genuine, all, with the exception of one case which contained 7.06 per cent. of added water, comprised small deficiencies, and the Health Committee gave instructions to the effect that these respective vendors be warned. The vendor of the sample containing 7.06 per cent. added water was prosecuted and fined £5, special costs £3 3s., and Analyst's fee 10s. 6d.; total, £8 13s. 6d. With regard to the two samples of butter returned as not genuine—one contained 2.81 per cent. of water in excess of that allowed by the Regulations of the Board of Agriculture, and the other contained foreign fat to the extent of 32 per cent. Both these samples were informal. Further samples from the same shops proved to be genuine.

A summary of the various articles dealt with and the results are given in the subjoined table:—

TABLE OF ARTICLES ANALYSED.

Article Analysed				Total Samples. Genuine. Not Genuine		
Milk	...	...	...	161	122	39
Butter	...	...	...	42	40	2
Margarine	...	...	...	28	28	—
Coffee	...	...	...	9	9	—
Beer	...	...	...	7	7	—
Ale	...	...	...	7	7	—
Vinegar	...	...	...	4	4	—
Paregoric	...	...	...	4	4	—
Lard	...	...	...	4	4	—
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	3	3	—
Preserved Cream	...	...	...	3	3	—
Sago	...	...	...	3	3	—
Oatmeal	...	...	...	3	3	—
Cornflour	...	...	...	2	2	—
Arrowroot	...	...	...	2	2	—
Sweet Spirit of Nitre	...	...	...	2	2	—
Mustard	...	...	...	2	2	—
Cocoa	...	...	...	2	2	—
Tinc. of Rhubarb	...	...	...	2	2	—
Bloater Paste	...	...	...	2	2	—
Sugar	...	...	...	2	2	—
Castor Oil	...	...	...	2	2	—
Borax	...	...	...	1	1	—
Fruit Wine	...	...	...	1	1	—
Baking Powder	...	...	...	1	1	—
Cinnamon	...	...	...	1	1	—
Blackcurrant Cordial	...	...	...	1	1	—
Sausages	...	...	...	1	1	—
Pepper	...	...	...	1	1	—
Ginger	...	...	...	1	1	—
Cream of Tarter	...	...	...	1	1	—
Tapioca	...	...	...	1	1	—
Kipper Paste	...	...	...	1	1	—
Bread	...	...	...	1	1	—
Cheese	...	...	...	1	1	—
Magnesia	...	...	...	1	1	—
Magnesium Carbonate	...	...	...	1	1	—
Treacle	...	...	...	1	1	—
				<hr/> 312	<hr/> 271	<hr/> 41

PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK AND CREAM) REGULATIONS, 1912 and 1917.

Report for the year ended 31st December, 1921.

1. MILK AND CREAM NOT SOLD AS PRESERVED CREAM.

	Milk.	Cream.
Number of Samples examined for the Presence of a Preservative	156	2
Number in which Preservatives was reported to be present, and Percentage of Preservative found in each Sample	Nil.	Nil.

2. CREAM SOLD AS PRESERVED CREAM.

(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservatives were correct:—

(i.) Correct statements made	1
(ii.) Statements incorrect	—
	1
	—

(iii.) Percentage of preservative found in each sample:

Sample No. 3118	0.30
Percentage stated on Statutory label	0.4

(b) Determinations made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream:

(i.) Above 35 per cent.	1
(ii.) Below 35 per cent.	—
	1
	—

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements with regard to labelling or declaration of preserved cream in Article V. (1) and the proviso in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed Nil.

(d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with, and action taken Nil.

3. THICKENING SUBSTANCES.

Any evidence of their addition to cream or preserved cream... Nil.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The staff, as will be seen on page 5, consisted of one whole-time Medical Officer of Health, who is also School Medical Officer, Tuberculosis Officer, Medical Officer to the Statutory Committee for Mental Deficiency and Superintendent of the Joint Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium; two whole-time Assistant Medical Officers, the Chief Sanitary Inspector and two Inspectors; Chief Clerk, assistant clerk and a junior, and one lady clerk who gives 50 per cent. of her time to school medical inspection work and 50 per cent. to maternity and child welfare work and work in connection with the supervision of midwives. We had five nurses whose time was divided between the following Committees: Health, Tuberculosis, Mental Deficiency, Maternity and Child Welfare, and Education. (For details of the duties performed by these nurses, see page 38). In addition there is one nurse engaged chiefly in Tuberculosis work, and one health visitor and clerk at the Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Contribution to the salaries of the Medical Officers and the Chief Inspector is made under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total, 221.

(b) As part of the municipal housing scheme, 220.

NOTE:—In addition to above 94 houses were erected as part of the Smethwick Municipal Housing Scheme in the Oldbury district.

1.—*Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... | 1,704 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ... | 74 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... | 2 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... | 74 |

2—*Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	567
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3.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	74
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:—	
(a) by owners	69
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
(3) Number of dwell-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	189
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(a) by owners	136
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.

